

provided for the preferred embodiment but without the randomness as associated with the use of the random number generator **148**. In this instance, the application program's execution of each case outcome for each set of the reel wheels **18** occurs in sequence from the first stop position (at 0) to the last stop position (at 21), which correlates to the total number images on the reel wheel (i.e., 22), and transmits the resultant value of the number steps for each case outcome to process controller means **34** to command each of the stepper motors to rotate and stop each of the reel wheels in succession from left to right for completion of the spin cycle as hereinbefore described. For example, as provided in TABLE 2, the first case outcome for reel wheels one, two and three is based on the first stop position (at 0) corresponding to a pre-defined set of images (Image A, Image A, Image A) depicted on the periphery of each reel wheel. Similarly, the second case outcome for reel wheels one, two and three is based on the second stop position (at 1) corresponding to a predefined set of images (Image B, Image B, Image B) depicted on the periphery of each reel wheel. Succeeding case outcomes therefore will occur in numeric sequence up until reel position **21** is reached, after which time the process for determining case outcomes restarts at case outcome one, reel position zero. In this embodiment, each case outcome for the set of reel wheels is predictable and always coincides with a pre-defined selection, matched set of symbols or images **140**. In other words, the operator is permitted to always observe a set of images or symbols to what is generally perceived as a winning combination in most gaming slot machines of chance, such as those which horizontally or angularly display a combination of three numeric symbols of seven (i.e., "7,""7,""7") or equivalent, as shown in FIG. 1. Hence, a variety of perceived-winning combinations is displayed after each and every time the set of reel wheels completes a spin cycle. TABLE 2 illustrates a typical mapping scheme for each case outcome and related stopped position for a set of reel wheels **18** of the alternative second embodiment of the present invention.

TABLE 2

| Case Outcome | Reel Wheel Stop Position | Reel Wheel One | Reel Wheel Two | Reel Wheel Three | Number of Steps or Pulses |
|--------------|--------------------------|----------------|----------------|------------------|---------------------------|
| 1            | 0                        | Image A        | Image A        | Image A          | 9.1                       |
| 2            | 1                        | Image B        | Image B        | Image B          | 27.3                      |
| 3            | 2                        | Image C        | Image C        | Image C          | 45.4                      |
| 4            | 3                        | Image D        | Image D        | Image D          | 63.6                      |
| 5            | 4                        | Image E        | Image E        | Image E          | 81.8                      |
| 6            | 5                        | Image F        | Image F        | Image F          | 100.0                     |
| 7            | 6                        | Image G        | Image G        | Image G          | 118.2                     |
| 8            | 7                        | Image H        | Image H        | Image H          | 136.4                     |
| 9            | 8                        | Image I        | Image I        | Image I          | 154.5                     |
| 10           | 9                        | Image J        | Image J        | Image J          | 172.7                     |
| 11           | 10                       | Image K        | Image K        | Image K          | 190.9                     |
| 12           | 11                       | Image L        | Image L        | Image L          | 209.1                     |
| 13           | 12                       | Image M        | Image M        | Image M          | 227.3                     |
| 14           | 13                       | Image N        | Image N        | Image N          | 245.4                     |
| 15           | 14                       | Image O        | Image O        | Image O          | 263.6                     |
| 16           | 15                       | Image P        | Image P        | Image P          | 281.8                     |
| 17           | 16                       | Image Q        | Image Q        | Image Q          | 300.0                     |
| 18           | 17                       | Image R        | Image R        | Image R          | 318.2                     |
| 19           | 18                       | Image S        | Image S        | Image S          | 336.3                     |
| 20           | 19                       | Image T        | Image T        | Image T          | 354.5                     |
| 21           | 20                       | Image U        | Image U        | Image U          | 372.7                     |
| 22           | 21                       | Image V        | Image V        | Image V          | 390.9                     |

[0054] Although TABLE 2 shows a set of three reel wheels **18** having matching images for each case outcome, it is noted herein that other embodiments employing usage of more than three reel wheels may comprise a set of matching and non-matching images or symbols. For instance, a case outcome for a five-reel wheel assembly may show through the divided display windows **16** three matching images contemplating a winning combination while the remaining two reel wheels appear to comprise non-matching images.

[0055] In other arrangements, the methodology for reel wheel rotation and stoppage as described for the preferred and second alternative embodiments may be incorporated into a third alternative embodiment where the random number generator **148** selects at random a case outcome from one of the 22 stop positions, and utilizes this value in the application program to compute the number of steps for each of the stepper motors to complete a reel wheel spin cycle, substantially in like manner described for the preferred embodiment. In other words, the third alternative embodiment comprises means for selecting at random each case outcome rather than in sequence as provided for the second alternative embodiment. In either of the two alternative embodiments, whereupon the reel wheels **18** have appreciably stopped in accord with the instruction set in the application program and after expiration of a predetermined time interval, process controller means **34** activates associated and communicatively coupled devices, including added illumination from external lamps **150** and audio from digitally enhanced sound means **106** to signify a perceived winning combination, activation of the hopper controller **58** for directing the dispensing of a memento from the memento bin or hopper assembly **56**, and in some instances, activation video playback means **68** for displaying supplemental video footage (e.g., sporting events of commemorative value or advertisements) on the CRT- or LCD-based monitor **74** to further promote the establishment's purpose, as substantially described above.

[0056] Referring now to FIG. 4, which depicts an initialization routine **152** of the application program, in the beginning when the power supply of the memento dispensing device **10** is powered up, the main microcontroller **118** is initialized in step **200** followed by a decisional prompt at step **202** to determine the status of onboard RAM. If RAM has not been initialized as provided for at step **202**, critical game functions in RAM are initialized at step **204**, such as clearing previous operative conditions and updating game functions as needed for subsequent operation, particularly the clearing of tilt and internal error codes and updating a LED meter **154** for display of error codes and the like. In step **206**, after initialization of the main microcontroller **118** and RAM, the real clock or timer **128** is activated to serve as a basis for timed events provided and required of execution in the application program, such as numeric seed value inputs into the random number generation algorithm and activation of internal interrupts or polling at predetermined time intervals of input and output devices that may adversely impact the main microcontroller's ability to execute directive commands provided in the application program as well as serving as means for documenting events on a timed basis or establishing operating histories for undertaking possible diagnostic activities. At step **208**, the initialization routine further comprises a decisional prompt to determine the status of credits added prior to a power failure, primarily